Notice of Rule Stakeholder Meeting Concerning HB 1648, HB 3735, SB 864, SB 1430 – Water Rights: Expedited Amendments, Notice & Conservation

House Bill (HB) 1648, HB 3735, Senate Bill (SB) 864, and SB 1430, 85th Regular Legislative Session, 2017, require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to conduct rulemaking to implement the legislation. House Bill 1648 relates to the designation of a water conservation coordinator by a retail public water utility to implement a water conservation plan; HB 3735 relates to an application for a new or amended water right submitted to the TCEQ; SB 864 relates to the procedure for obtaining a right to use state water if the applicant proposes an alternative source of water that is not state water; and, SB 1430 relates to a requirement that the TCEQ provide an expedited procedure for acting on certain applications for an amendment to a water right by certain applicants that use desalinated seawater.

To comply with HB 1648, HB 3735, SB 864, and SB 1430, TCEQ staff proposes to amend Chapters 288, 80, 295, and 297.

TCEQ is holding a rule stakeholder meeting to obtain input from the public on the rulemaking required by HB 1648, HB 3735, SB 864 and SB 1430.

The rule stakeholder meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., at TCEQ's Offices at 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, Room 201S, Austin, Texas. If you are unable to attend the scheduled meeting, please submit your written comments no later than September 26, 2017, to Kathy Ramirez, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, MC 160, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, by fax (512) 239-2214, or by email to wras@tceq.texas.gov. Please include "Rulemaking (Water Rights)" in the subject line of your mailed, faxed, or e-mailed comment letter.

The rule stakeholder meeting will be webcast at http://adminmonitor.com/tx/tceq/special meeting/20170911/.

Please note that this is an opportunity to provide informal comments to staff prior to the formal rulemaking process. Responses will not be prepared for comments received at this meeting. A formal public rule hearing and comment period is planned for March 2018.